

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 178

By Bell

A RESOLUTION relative to the release of water into the Ocoee and Caney Fork Rivers by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this General Assembly that the rivers of this State, particularly those which feature whitewater rapids, encourage tourism, thereby creating hundreds of jobs and business within Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, of particular note are the Ocoee and Caney Fork Rivers, which have hosted many world-class whitewater competitions, including competitions during the 1996 Olympic Games, various World Cup events, and numerous World Freestyle Championships; and

WHEREAS, Whitewater-based tourism attracts more than a million visitors each year to the Ocoee and Rock Island State Parks; and

WHEREAS, however, those incredible stretches of whitewater river only exist when the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) releases water into otherwise empty riverbeds; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge TVA officials to consider the continued and consistent release of waters into the Ocoee and Caney Fork Rivers in an effort to promote and increase whitewater tourism and competitions in the areas of the Ocoee and Rock Island State Parks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge TVA officials to consider releases of recreational waters into these two rivers as tourism and economic development strategies for the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge TVA officials to coordinate with representatives of the department of environment and conservation, commercial outfitters, and appropriate state organizations for the purpose of creating a long-term contract governing the releases of recreational waters into the Upper and Middle Ocoee River Gorge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge TVA officials to consider a consistent schedule of recreational water releases at the Great Falls Dam during certain times of the year for the purpose of promoting the growth of whitewater recreation and competition on the Caney Fork River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors and the commissioner of the department of environment and conservation with this final clause omitted from such copy.